

# The Punta Gorda Herald

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NO. 23.

In the late primary, Gen. Law, of the Bartow Courier-Informant, advocated Mr. Stockton. In last week's issue of his paper, he says:—"As to the gubernatorial contest, though we voted for Stockton and advocated his election, a fair consideration of present conditions leads us to but one conclusion, and that is, his defeat in the second primary. Gilchrist now has a lead of about three thousand votes, and should he succeed in getting even one third of the Browne vote, he would still have a thousand majority over Stockton. Each candidate has a thorough organization, and the fight will be a hard one."

Ocala Banner:—General Gilchrist is almost universally admitted to be as confiding as a woman and as guileless as a child. And now the Tallahassee Sun is calling him a "demagogue." The whole manner of his living and trend of his life give the charge a flat denial.

The Baptists of Florida will have to raise \$17,000 during the next year, as they are assessed \$9,000 for home and \$8,000 for foreign missions by the late Southern Baptist Convention in session at Hot Springs, Ark. The denomination is a strong one in Florida and the amount will be subscribed.

Messrs. I. S. Giddens and A. J. Knight, both of Tampa, will represent this congressional district in the Democratic national convention. In the late primary, they received over 7,000 votes each, while their three competitors received less than 4,000 each.

## Language for Gentlemen.

Baltimore American:—Maj. John M. Burke, Buffalo Bill's right bower, press agent, and general manager, was at the Rennet yesterday with his usual beaming face and, as ever, redolent of optimism.

"I am not a professional reformer," said the gallant major, "but I would like to see the American people abandon the swearing habit."

"We are as a nation too prone to use cuss words whenever things don't go right or our feelings are hurt. It seems to me that real profanity should be tabooed by all who aspire to be considered gentlemen so as to create a sentiment that the use of such expletives is a mark of vulgarity and ruffianism."

"Instead of ugly oaths when laboring under excitement, the coming generation should be taught to employ only near swear words, such as 'By the jumping Jehosaphat, by Jingo Gee, by the beard Prophet and the like."

"The late Jim Hoog, governor of Texas, one of my best friends, used the innocent, but blood curdling phrase, by goodlings, whenever his hot southern blood got inflamed."

"A great number of prominent Americans get on very well without using actual profanity. Colonel Cody, though a frontiersman all his life and accustomed to the society of men who handle the mother tongue carelessly, is not given to blasphemous speech. The colonel, when worked up, has been known to say 'dog-gone it' and 'dad-blame it' and now and then 'dod-gast it,' but this is the limit of his impassioned vocabulary."

## ADVERTISING DECLINED.

### Vilification of an Honorable Gentleman Refused.

THE HERALD last week received from Mr. Claude L'Engle, editor of the Tallahassee Sun, a request to quote price for thirty inches of displayed advertising and three columns of reading matter to be used in behalf of J. N. C. Stockton's candidacy and to be paid for out of Mr. L'Engle's personal funds. To this request the following answer was promptly returned:

Punta Gorda, Fla.,

May 27th, 1903.

Hon. Claude L'Engle,  
Tallahassee, Fla.:—

DEAR SIR:—I beg to acknowledge your esteemed favor of the 23rd asking for rates for thirty inches of displayed matter and three columns of reading matter in advocacy of the candidacy of Hon. J. N. C. Stockton for governor, and in reply beg to respectfully decline to accept the proposed matter at any price.

My reasons for declining are that General Gilchrist, whom you are attacking unjustly, is my friend and I am supporting him for governor, because I am convinced that he is in every respect well qualified for the office and is worthy of the support of any and all citizens of Florida.

Further, your attacks on him, for the publication of which you would use the space you desire, are based on the false assumption that he is in league with the whiskey and corporation elements to control and govern the State in their interest; for you say in your letter to me, "The question now is whether or not whiskey and the saloon element shall dominate the State administration."

You know there is no such question; that no class, element or faction can control or dominate Gilchrist against his conscientious convictions of what is right. You yourself said in the Sun several months ago that "the corporations do not want Gilchrist, because they know that they can't control him," and that was and is true, but now you charge him with being the corporation candidate.

I believe you know that you can't control him, and that is why you are opposing him and supporting Mr. Stockton.

At any rate, I shall not permit you or any one else to use THE HERALD in making the false charge against General Gilchrist that, if elected governor, he will be controlled by the whiskey element and the corporations.

If these elements are supporting him, they are doing so because they very correctly believe that he is a fair and just man and will treat all interests with justice and impartiality. Do you think he ought to reject their support because they may not be as good Christians as you think you are?

Wouldn't a man running for office be a great "crank" if he announced that he did not want the votes of the employees of railroads, the keepers of saloons, poker players, cigarette smokers, and all others who do not go to church every Sunday? Will Mr. Stockton make such a declaration?

Fraternally yours,  
A. P. JORDAN,  
Editor THE HERALD.

## Mr. Stockton's Unfitness.

[EDITORIAL.]

Certain serious objections to making Mr. Stockton governor of Florida have never been denied or answered by his advocates. Summarized, they are as follows:

First he is impulsive, impetuous, rash, and therefore likely to do things that ought not to be done, things that might seriously and injuriously affect the interests of the entire State.

Second, he is and always has been a bitter partisan, a fact admitted by his most persistent supporter, the Tallahassee Sun, which recently said that this characteristic had in times past led him to say and to do things that should not have been said or done. This one defect of character should alone be sufficient to cause a patriotic people to reject him at the polls, for such a man as governor would be very likely to stir up strife and dissension throughout the State.

Third, his supporters boast of his independence, which is a good trait in some men, but a bad one in Mr. Stockton, as was shown some years ago by his bolting the Democratic nominations in Duval county and running as an independent candidate for the legislature. More recently, this characteristic appeared in his letter to Judge Stewart, of DeLand, in which Mr. Stockton said in effect that, unless the results were satisfactory to him, he would not appoint county officers in compliance with the wishes of the people as expressed in primary elections. We submit that this kind of independence is very objectionable.

Fourth, Mr. Stockton belongs to the faction of which Governor Broward is a conspicuous member and is in cordial accord with him on the policies of that faction, and he may be depended on to persist in carrying them out. These policies, as we have seen, have resulted in an increase of taxes, the wholesale pardoning of criminals, outright gifts of \$5,000 fees of the people's money to favored lawyers, contemptuous disregard of the results of county primaries and the recommendations of county committees, neglect of official duties at Tallahassee, the perfecting of a State political "machine" and other highly objectionable features, which are repugnant to the wishes and spirit of the patriotic and progressive people of Florida.

Fifth, as is well known, Mr. Stockton is the implacable political foe of Senator Taliaferro and Congressman Clark; and should he be chosen governor, there would be no harmony, no co-operation between him and our representatives in Washington. Indeed, his bitter partisan spirit would betray him into efforts to discredit them by trying to thwart their plans and purposes in Washington and thus inflict injury upon Florida. If we want our State to continue to receive blessings from the national government, there must be harmony between our governor and our members of Congress, and this cannot be, if Mr. Stockton is made governor.

Sixth, those who know Mr. Stockton best and are, therefore, better judges than all others of his character, his fitness and qualifications, his neighbors in his home ward of Jacksonville and of his home county of Duval, by their votes virtually advise the people

## ABOUT GOOD ROADS.

### Here Are the Most Sensible Views Yet.

THE HERALD is opposed to the establishment in this State of a bureau of public roads as provided for in a proposed bill now being circulated for the purpose of getting support with a view to being introduced in the next legislature. Touching this matter, the most sensible views which we have yet seen expressed appeared in a late issue of the Tampa Times and are as follows:

The debatable features of the subject are the matter of cost, the ability of communities or state to bear them, the methods employed to build them and the location thereof. A man or a paper can hold the view that the cost of good roads in Florida would be so great that they would not pay except in those localities which are financially the best able, and still be an enthusiast on their behalf. Another may favor the construction of a complete system by the state, and yet conceive only of methods and plans that would be loaded down with inevitable oppo-

sition by virtue of their weakness and inapplicability. As to the question of good roads, per se, there is not a voice in opposition. As to the plans and schemes for procuring them, there is a very wide variance of opinion. Any plan contemplating state construction would involve the selection of localities through which the roads would be built, and this would involve the hostility of other localities not so favored. Anything like a complete system to cover the state sufficiently to remove this objection, would make the enterprise so large that it could not be completed in time to do this generation much good. About the smallest outlined scheme we have seen involves no less than a thousand miles of roadway. This would cost from two to five thousand dollars a mile, laying upon the state a burden of two to five million dollars—manifestly impossible.

Under the circumstances, the Times begs leave to repeat its previous suggestion that each locality that is able shall build all the good roads it can. When these small local systems of road are completed, or far advanced, other adjacent localities might attach other systems to them at the nearest point of contact. For instance, Bartow and Orlando are centers of considerable systems. Hillsborough has reached out nearly to its eastern border. Let Polk county connect with Hillsborough. It might follow that Lakeland and Kissimmee would exert themselves to catch on to these roads when completed, and the connection with Orlando would not be a task of much difficulty or any great time. From Plant City, in this county, the branch road running north might be extended to the county line and thence by other counties to Ocala. Each county could do its share of the work, and by and by there would be a tolerable system of sufficient size to be of great value.

This is, in our opinion, the only practicable way of getting good roads. And then it will be some years after their completion before they will fully and self-evidently justify their cost. We of this county know what that is, as well as the tax for maintenance.

On the other hand, not a single one of the above objections can be urged against General Gilchrist, whose neighbors know him to be a high-toned, honorable gentleman, with no selfish ends in view—a man, who, notwithstanding the outrageous slanders now being circulated against him, cannot be swerved from a course of rectitude and earnest devotion to the interests of the State by all his friends put together, much less by the keepers of bar-rooms and the agents of corporations. These people, if they are supporting him, are doing so because they know him to be a fair, just, honorable man, and it is an infamous slander to say that they will control him.

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## Gilchrist Thanks the Voters.

I wish to express my high appreciation to the people of Florida for the great vote which they gave me in the last primary. I would not be true to them, or to myself, if I did not use every honorable effort to carry out their wishes in endeavoring to secure an election in the coming primary, June 16.

I respectfully solicit the votes of people of all stations, trades, occupations, business callings and professions in life. I thank those who supported me. I hope they will continue to do so. I respect the honest differences of opinion or the personal preferences of those who saw fit to vote against me. I hope they will change their opinions and preferences and vote for me. I hope to be Governor for no other reason than that of being Governor in an honorable, manly way.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, ALBERT W. GILCHRIST,  
Candidate for Governor of Florida.